



Childhood Connections

December 1, 2022

Happy Holidays!



The end of a calendar year is often a time of reflection and gratitude. As we reflect on the successes and the challenges from this year, we look forward to continuing what is working and finding ways to improve what is not working.

As 2022 comes to an end, on behalf of the Office of Childhood, thank you for spending time with us and sharing your experiences. Whether you responded to a survey, participated in a webinar, shared a comment, emailed a question, or provided direct services – we appreciate your perspective and your commitment to Missouri’s children and families. Wishing you a healthy and happy holiday season.

Sincerely,  
Pam Thomas  
Assistant Commissioner, Office of Childhood

### NEW! Start-up Funding Opportunities

Two funding opportunities for new child care programs are now open:

- [Start-up For Essential Workers](#) - This funding opportunity allows for start-up of a new, licensed facility to increase the number of children of essential workers served in rural communities.
- [Start-up for Small Businesses](#) - This funding opportunity allows for start-up of a new, licensed facility to serve children of small business employees in rural communities.

These grants are made possible with Child Care American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Discretionary funds. To apply, the child care provider must provide a completed Application for License to Operate a Child Care Facility, a program description of how the relief funds will be used, and at least one letter of support.



### REMINDER! Early Childhood State Advisory Council (ECSAC) Meeting

The next meeting of the ECSAC will be on Friday, January 20, 2023 at 12:30 p.m. Read more about the council meeting and how guests can listen live on the [ECSAC webpage](#).

### REMINDER! First Steps Informational Webinar

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

- For more details about timelines and requirements, review the Instructions and Terms & Conditions for each application.
- View the [Start-Up A New Child Care Program Webinar](#) from the Missouri Chamber of Commerce for more information on these funding opportunities.
- The deadline to apply is **January 31, 2023 at 11:59 p.m.**

### **NEW! Missouri Youth Development Credential Scholarship Project**

The Missouri AfterSchool Network (MASN) can help you continue your training and education at no cost to you! If you are passionate about providing children and youth quality programming and care, let MASN assist you in turning your passion into a credential in youth development.

The [Youth Development Credential \(YDC\) Scholarship Project](#) provides one-on-one support through the YDC process, pays for your CypherWorx access (with over 120 hours of afterschool and youth development-specific training available), the associated assessment fees, and gives you \$200 for earning your YDC.

If you are 18 years or older, have a high school diploma or GED, and work in a Missouri program with a DVN, you are eligible for a scholarship! Please contact Ashlee Liska, YDC Coordinator, at [liskaa@missouri.edu](mailto:liskaa@missouri.edu) with questions.

### **UPDATE! Child Care Subsidy Rate Adjustment**

The updated 2022 child care subsidy provider rates are in effect. While provider rate adjustments typically coincide with the current Market Rate Survey, decreasing rates at this time would not be in the best interest of the providers, families, or the state. OOC identified a set of rates that decreased based on the survey and those rates have been brought back to the prior amount.

For November 2022 services, providers can expect to see the updated rate in their December 2022 payment. For October 2022 services, the Office of Childhood is working to manually calculate the differences in the rates paid to the providers and pay the difference according to the updated

(IDEA) established the State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report (SPP/APR) which is a series of “indicators” designed to measure results for children and families served in Missouri’s Part C Early Intervention program known as First Steps. The OOC is engaging with Missouri stakeholders to review targets or goals for these indicators, to analyze data, develop improvement strategies, and evaluate progress. A [webinar](#) will be on December 8, 2022 from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. to share information with stakeholders and gather feedback.

### **A Winter Webinar Series: Don't Freeze When Communicating Your Child's Needs**

Do you freeze up when you try to explain the “what” and “why” of your child's needs? Do you get emotional?

Missouri’s Parent Training and Information Center (MPACT) is hosting a virtual training series in December on effective communication strategies for parents of children with disabilities. [Register for the webinar.](#)

### **NEW! RSV Awareness Resources**

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHSS) has created a Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)

rate. Manual rate adjustments are expected to be completed by January 31, 2023.

As a reminder:

- Providers serving children in foster care will get the market rate.
- Providers serving adoption subsidy and/or children in protective services for which legal guardianship is being pursued will receive the base rate.
- The updated rates include differentials for providers offering evening/weekend care and variances based on locale.

We are working with the Department of Social Services to update the rate tables that display in the web app. In the meantime, you can review the current rates on the [subsidy payment webpage](#) under General Payment Information – Child Care Payment Rate Spreadsheet.

If you have questions about your rate, contact the Child Care Subsidy Payment team at 573-522-1385.

#### **REMINDER! Fingerprint Payment for Child Care Staff Members**

December 31, 2022, is the last day that the OOC will pay for the cost of fingerprinting for child care staff members who register to complete the criminal background check required per Section 210.1080, RSMo.

Please keep the following in mind:

- Eligibility determinations for the employment or presence in a child care facility are good for five years from the date of the letter.
- If you already have an eligible letter dated within the last five years issued by DESE, the Department of Social Services, or the Department of Health and Senior Services you do not need to be fingerprinted again at this time.
- If there is an increase in individuals getting fingerprinted unnecessarily before the end of the year keep in mind that this may increase processing times for everyone, including prospective child care staff members.

awareness [poster](#) and [handout](#) for schools and child care facilities.

These new resources explain what RSV feels like and how to protect children and community members from spreading RSV.

#### **REMINDER! IDEA Part C Changes Comment Period**

The OOC is proposing to amend the state regulations implementing Part C of the IDEA known as the Missouri Part C State Plan for First Steps. To review the proposed changes, information on public hearings, and how to submit comments, please review the [stakeholder message](#).

#### **REMINDER! Conference on the Young Years**

The 50th Conference on the Young Years (CYY) will be held March 9-11, 2023 at Tan-Tar-A Conference Center in Osage Beach, Missouri. CYY will have engaging keynote speakers as well as sessions designed to support professionals including home visitors, preschool teachers, child care providers, afterschool providers, elementary teachers, and administrators. For more information visit the [CYY webpage](#).

#### **NEW! MOPATA Merchandise**

## REMINDER! Keep Your Outdoor Space Maintained

Licensed Child Care Centers - Did you know that it is the provider's responsibility to maintain the resilient material in areas where children may fall in the outdoor play space?

Licensing Rules – Family Homes 5 CSR 25.400.085 (3)(A)7. and Group Homes and Centers 5 CSR 25.500.082 (6)(A)6. notes: "The provider shall be responsible for the type, depth and fall-zone area of resilient material necessary for the protection of children." and Family Homes 5 CSR 25.400.085 (3)(A)8. and Group Homes and Centers 5 CSR 25.500.082 (6)(A)7. notes: "Areas under and around outdoor equipment shall have continuous maintenance to ensure that the material remains in place and retains its cushioning properties. The resilient material shall be supplemented immediately or replaced as needed."

Some common issues with resilient material include mulch that will wear away over time and turn to dirt, pea gravel that will wash away if not properly encased, or rubber mats that over years of exposure will harden and lose resilient properties. Make sure you are regularly assessing your outdoor play space for ongoing maintenance and contact your compliance inspector if you have any questions about approved resilient materials.

The Missouri Parents as Teachers Association (MOPATA) has branded promotional items available for local school district's PAT Parent Education Programs to order. There are tablecloths, tote bags, backpacks, and apparel to promote your local school district's PAT Parent Education Program. Check out these items located on the [MOPATA webpage](#) under the Grow tab.

### NEW! PAT Find Program Button

A new feature is now available on the [Parents as Teachers National Center \(PATNC\) website](#). To locate a Missouri Parents as Teachers Curriculum Partner or Affiliate Program, click the Find Programs button on the home page. The website will generate the school district/program name, address, and contact information for the program.

## Spotlight on Success

Spotlight on Success aims to share stories from local programs that are building community partnerships in order to strengthen and coordinate childhood programs.



Little Learners Spectrum Center Inc. staff during a professional development day. Photo courtesy of Ashley Smith.

This month's spotlight is on Little Learners Spectrum Center INC in Farmington, Missouri. The center recently received a generous donation from a community member in the form of an \$11 million facility to support the care and education of children in the community. The building will need some repairs before it is fully functional, but Little Learners already has big plans for the space in order to meet the needs of families in the community. The center plans to create an inclusive school with in-house therapies for K-12 students as well as providing overnight care for children with special needs.

### Preschool Development Grant Birth to Five (PDG B-5) Update



The Preschool Development Grant Birth to Five (PDG B-5) provides funding over three years to coordinate a more effective, high-quality early childhood system that better prepares Missouri children for success.

Each month the Office of Childhood hosts a live webinar to provide updates and information about the PDG B-5 to stakeholders. A recording and the PowerPoint slides from the [November webinar](#) is available in case you are unable to attend and wish to hear the information. You can view archived webinars [here](#):

- [October 2022](#)
- [September 2022](#)
- [August 2022](#)
- [July 2022](#)
- [June 2022](#)
- [May 2022](#)

A [PDG B-5 dashboard](#) is also updated monthly. This dashboard provides an at-a-glance look at priority areas, budget status, and key accomplishments.



## PDG B-5 Monthly Webinar

OOC will not host a stakeholder webinar in December. We wish you a happy holiday season and we will return in January 2023.

## Archived Editions of Childhood Connections

Visit the Office of Childhood website to find [previous editions](#) of the Childhood Connections.

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, age, veteran status, mental or physical disability, or any other basis prohibited by statute in its programs and activities. Inquiries related to department programs and to the location of services, activities, and facilities that are accessible by persons with disabilities may be directed to the Jefferson State Office Building, Director of Civil Rights Compliance and MOA Coordinator (Title VI/Title VII/Title IX/504/ADA/ADAAA/Age Act/GINA/USDA Title VI), 5th Floor, 205 Jefferson Street, P.O. Box 480, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0480; telephone number 573-526-4757 or TTY 800-735-2966; email [civilrights@dese.mo.gov](mailto:civilrights@dese.mo.gov).



DESE Office of Childhood | 205 Jefferson Street - 1st Floor | Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Report Spam](#)